

Watershed Rehabilitation

April 2009

Reinvesting in Sandy Creek No. 15 Watershed Structure, Georgia

Introduction

This dam rehabilitation project will create or save jobs and protect lives, property, and public works from dam failure. During and after floods, it will prevent injury and disease, reduce need for emergency personnel, and prevent disruption of community services.



The Sandy Creek No. 15 Dam is located in Jackson County, Georgia.

Project Description

- **Location:** Jackson County, 10th Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$1,975,000
- **Sponsor Funding:** \$909,090

This project will install an auxiliary spillway over the top of this dam to maintain structural integrity during major storm events. Once the project is completed, this dam will meet current public safety standards.

Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission
- Oconee River Soil and Water Conservation District
- Jackson County Board of Commissioners

Benefits

Rehabilitation of the dam will protect transportation networks, utilities, and real estate values in the floodplain. The safety of 26 residents will be increased, and many residents will indirectly benefit from improvements to this dam. Nearly 20 miles of stream corridor and floodplain function will be enhanced. There will also be open spaces in areas where houses have been removed.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.

Aerial view of the Sandy Creek No. 15 Watershed Structure site.

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Economic Opportunities

Jobs will be created or saved for the planning, design, and construction of this project. Protection provided by the dam will help maintain the economic base and enhance future economic development and opportunity in the area. Each year the completed project will provide nearly \$44,000 in average flood damage reduction benefits and almost \$10,000 in non-flood damage reduction benefits.

Statewide Perspective

Rehabilitation of Sandy Creek No. 15 will help Georgia achieve the overall goal of upgrading all high-hazard class dams to State safe dam standards.

For More Information

USDA, NRCS
355 East Hancock Avenue
Athens, GA 30601
(706)-546-2272
www.ga.nrcs.usda.gov

Sandy Creek Dam 15. Maintenance performed to reestablish vegetation on backslope and install riprap erosion protection on the principal spillway outlet basin.

Sandy Creek Dam 15. Maintenance activities.
New vegetation on dam (left) and auxiliary spillway (right).

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